

**BOARD OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
MEETING  
January 21, 2003  
Richmond, Virginia**

Members Present

Mr. Richard Ahuja  
Mr. James Benson  
Mr. Gary Bowman  
Ms. Betty Ann Davis  
Ms. Susan Dewey  
Ms. Ann Hunnicutt  
Mr. John Kilgore  
Mr. Jack Loeb  
Ms. Rene Miller  
Mr. Phillip Paquette  
Mr. Evans Thomas  
Mr. William Thompson

Members Absent

Mr. Richard Hausler

Call to Order

Mr. Gary Bowman, Vice-Chairman, called the meeting of the Board of Housing and Community Development to order.

Roll Call

The roll was called by Mr. Stephen Calhoun of the Department's Policy Office. A quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2002 meeting of the Board. The motion was seconded and passed.

New Board Members

Mr. Bill Shelton, Director of the Department of Housing and Community Development, introduced three new members of the Board, Ms. Betty Ann Davis, Ms. Ann Hunnicutt and Mr. Jack Loeb. Mr. Bowman welcomed the new members to the Board. Each new member spoke briefly on their background and interest in the Board.

Board Elections

Mr. Bowman turned the meeting over to Mr. Shelton for the election of a Board Chairman. Mr. Evans Thomas nominated Mr. Bowman to be Chairman. Mr. Bowman was elected by acclamation. Mr. Bowman asked for nominations for Vice Chairman. Mr. Phil Paquette

nominated Mr. Richard Ahuja. Mr. Ahuja was elected by acclamation as Vice Chairman.

Public Comment

Mr. Bowman opened a public comment period for persons wishing to address the Board. Two persons requested to speak. Mr. Tom Forl of Roanoke, Virginia spoke of his support for regulatory provisions requiring arc fault protection circuit breakers. Ms. Carolyn Williams of Richmond, Virginia spoke on the issue of residential stair safety. Ms. Williams provided written comments to the Board.

Report of the Codes and Standards Committee

Mr. Bowman reviewed the issues discussed at the morning Codes and Standards Committee meeting and the current status of proposed regulations. Mr. Jack Proctor, Deputy Director of the Division of Building on Fire Regulations, and Mr. Shelton provided an overview of the regulatory adoption process.

Report of the Housing Committee

Mr. Ahuja, Chairman of the Committee, reviewed the issues discussed at the morning meeting of the Housing Committee. Mr. Shelton reviewed the concept behind a proposed Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Virginia Housing Development Authority regarding the disposition of funding for the Virginia Housing Partnership Fund. A motion was made to approve the concept embodied in the draft Memorandum of Understanding. The motion was seconded and unanimously passed. The final Memorandum of Understanding will be presented to the Board later in the year. Mr. Shelton also reviewed financial and funding data on programs for the homeless and for homeless intervention.

Virginia Housing Conference

Mr. Basil Gooden, Principal Deputy Director of the Department, provided information on the Governor's Housing Conference for 2003. This Conference will be held at the Norfolk Waterside Marriott on November 12, 13 and 14, 2003.

Report of VHDA

Ms. Susan Dewey, Executive Director of VHDA, discussed the low-interest rate market impact on VHDA lending. Ms. Dewey also provided an update on tax-exempt bonds allowed for this year. Ms. Dewey reported that Governor

Warner announced that that he has directed that the remaining \$97 million from the Virginia Private Activity Bond Program Volume Cap Allocation go to the Virginia Housing Development Authority (VHDA). In addition to this allocation from the Governor's discretionary portion of the Private Activity Bond pool, the VHDA will receive the remaining allocation from the Local Housing Pool (\$71,426,207) as well as the remaining allocation from the Industrial Development Bond Pool (\$152,192,820). This \$320.6 million in allocations empowers the VHDA to issue tax-free bonds to fund affordable housing initiatives.

Report Virginia Fire  
Services Board

Mr. Paquette provided an overview of budget cuts in fire programs and services including cuts in training and funds to localities. The Fire Services Board is working to have no additional reduction in training. Mr. Paquette also reviewed proposed legislation that would impact fire programs.

Report of the Director

Mr. Shelton spoke on proposed budget cuts that would affect Department programs. Mr. Bill Ernst of the Department's Policy Office reviewed bills currently under consideration by the 2003 General Assembly that would affect Department programs, interests or clients. Mr. Shelton reviewed the recent Governor's Executive Order on Water. Mr. Shelton also reviewed recent grant awards of the Virginia Enterprise Initiative program and the Appalachian Regional Commission and provided a news release handout for the announcements. Mr. Calhoun handed out a copy of the Governor's Economic Development Strategic Plan called One Virginia, One Future. Mr. Shelton reviewed the background and content of this Strategic Plan. Mr. Shelton also provided an update on the recently completed fire sprinkler testing. After meeting with the Office of the Attorney General, additional information on the fire sprinkler testing will be provided to the Board. Mr. Shelton also spoke about the possible relocation of the Commission on Local Government to the Department of Housing and Community Development.

Board Matters

None

Unfinished Business

None

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New Business

Mr. Calhoun provided direct deposit forms for Board members to use for travel reimbursement.

Future Meetings

The Codes and Standards Committee will meet on February 27, 2003. The next full Board meeting is scheduled to be March 17, 2003.

Adjournment

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

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